

Vital Records Overview

Death Data

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Overview

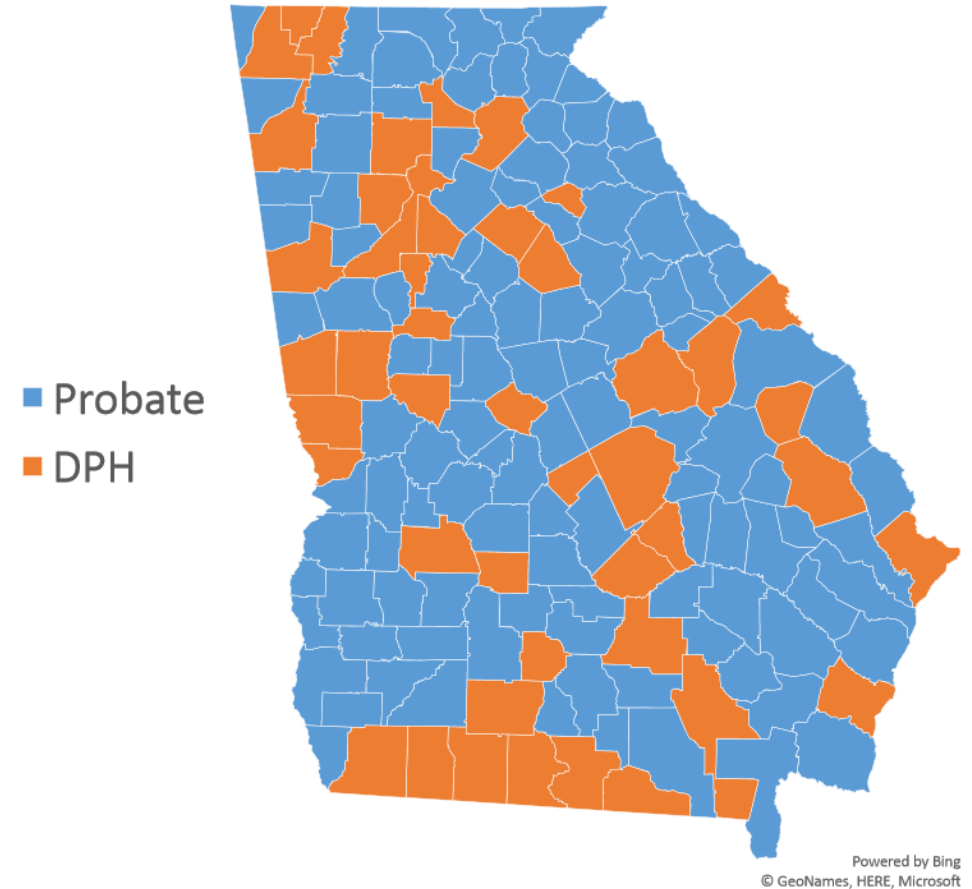
- GAVERS Overview
- Death Record Creation
- New Initiatives
- Q&A

Vital Records Office Locations

State Office of Vital Records
1680 Phoenix Blvd, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30349

Local Vital Records Offices
One in every county

- 45 Public Health Offices
- 114 Probate Courts



GIVERS Overview

GAVERS Overview

System Overview

- Georgia Vital Event Registration System (GAVERS)
- Completely web-based
- Vendor product
- Servers managed by GTA
- Access controlled by State Office of Vital Records

User Types

- Hospital Medical Records
- Funeral Homes
- Physicians
- Medical Examiners/Coroners
- County Courts
- Vital Records

GAVERS Overview

Record Types

Births

Deaths

Fetal Deaths

Induced Termination of Pregnancy (ITOP)

Marriages

Divorces

Information Collected

Events that **occurred** in Georgia

Legal information

Statistical information

Data from 1919-present

1919-2009 Paper, partially electronic

2010 First electronic system

2013 (GAVERS)

User Registration

How to Get Started?

- Request a registration form from the State Office of Vital Records
- You will be assigned a user name, password and PIN (electronic signature for certify a record.)
- Log in at <https://gavers.dph.ga.gov/welcome.htm>

GA Code Ann., § 31-10-15 Death registration

(a) A certificate of death filed with the county within **ten** days as follows:

- (1) The place of death is unknown but the dead body is found in this state,
- (2) When death occurs in a moving conveyance is first removed from the conveyance in this state

(b) The funeral director or person acting as such who first assumes custody of the dead body shall file the certificate of death within 72 hours.

(c) (1) The medical certification as to the cause and circumstances of death shall be completed, signed, and returned to the funeral director or person acting as such within 72 hours after death by the physician in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death, except when inquiry is required by Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45, the "Georgia Death Investigation Act." In the absence of said physician or with that physician's approval the certificate may be completed and signed by an associate physician, the chief medical officer of the institution in which death occurred, or the physician who performed an autopsy upon the decedent, provided that such individual has access to the medical history of the case, views the deceased at or after death, and death is due to natural causes. The funeral director or person acting as such shall be authorized to report such physician to the Georgia Composite Medical Board for discipline pursuant to [Code Section 43-34-8](#).

GA Rules and Regulations 511-1-3.19

(6) When reporting is due.

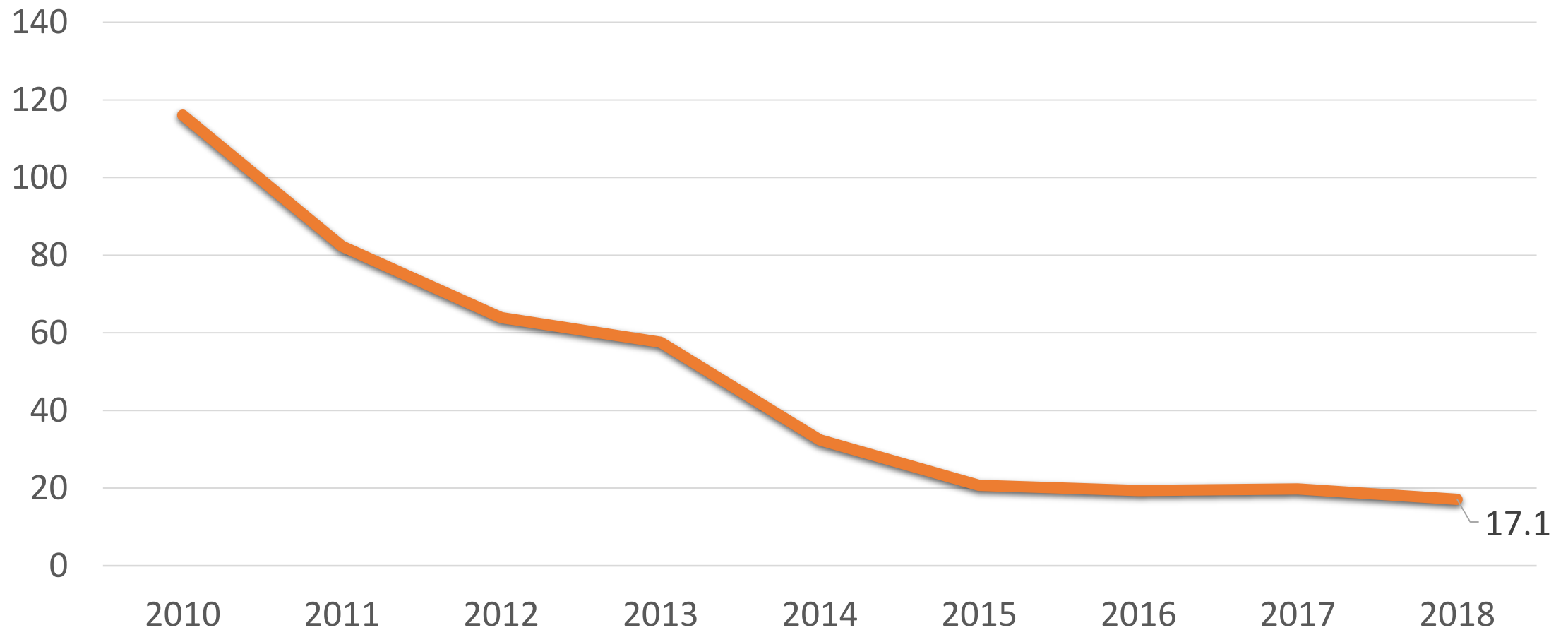
(a) The report of death shall be made within three calendar days after death.

(b) Certification of the cause of death shall be made within three calendar days after death; provided, however, that if death occurred without medical attendance, or in cases subject to inquiry under Title 45, Chapter 16, Article 2, certification shall be made within 30 days after notification of death.

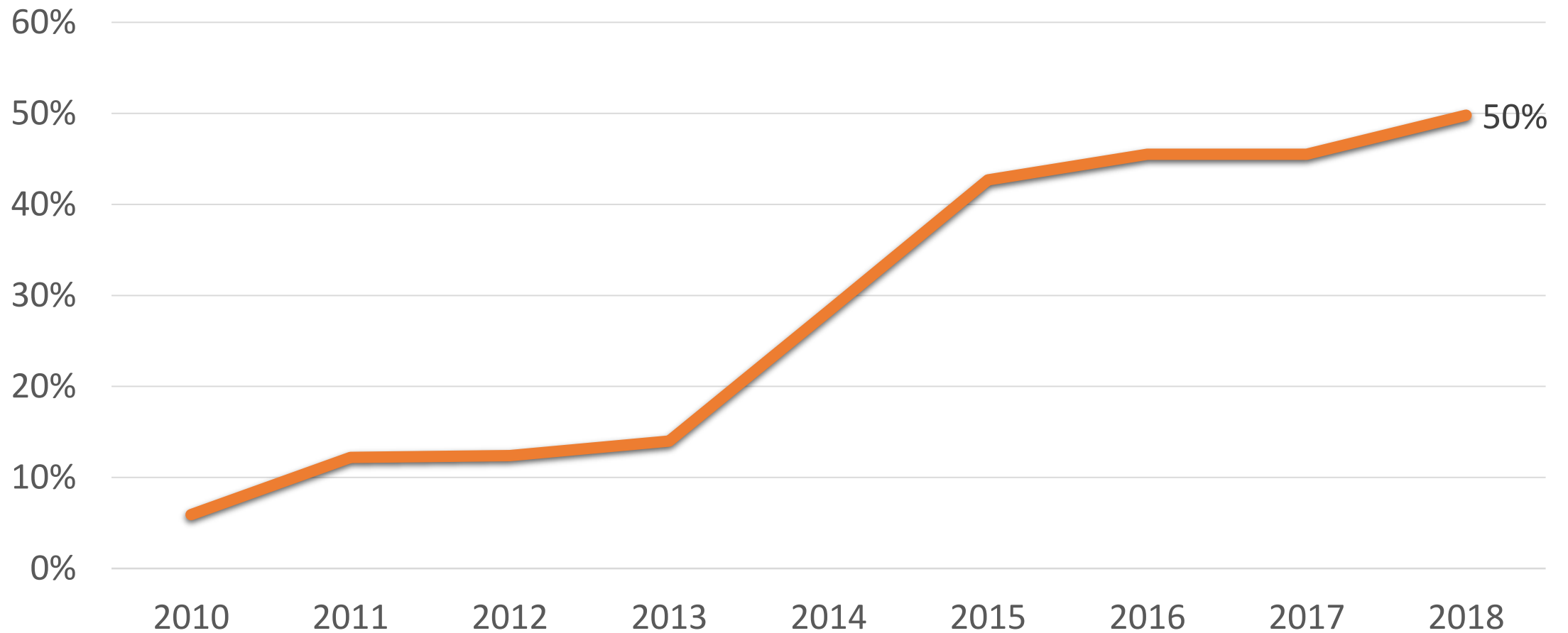
(c) If for any reason the cause of death cannot be determined within 48 hours after death, then "under review" shall be entered on the death report and amended promptly after the determination is made. Until the cause of death is certified, final disposition of the body shall not be made unless authorized by the attending physician or, with regard to a body subject to inquiry under Title 45, Chapter 16, Article 2, by the county coroner or medical examiner.

- Please report deaths promptly, even if final cause or manner has not been determined.
 - Doing so will help us serve families and help with public health data.

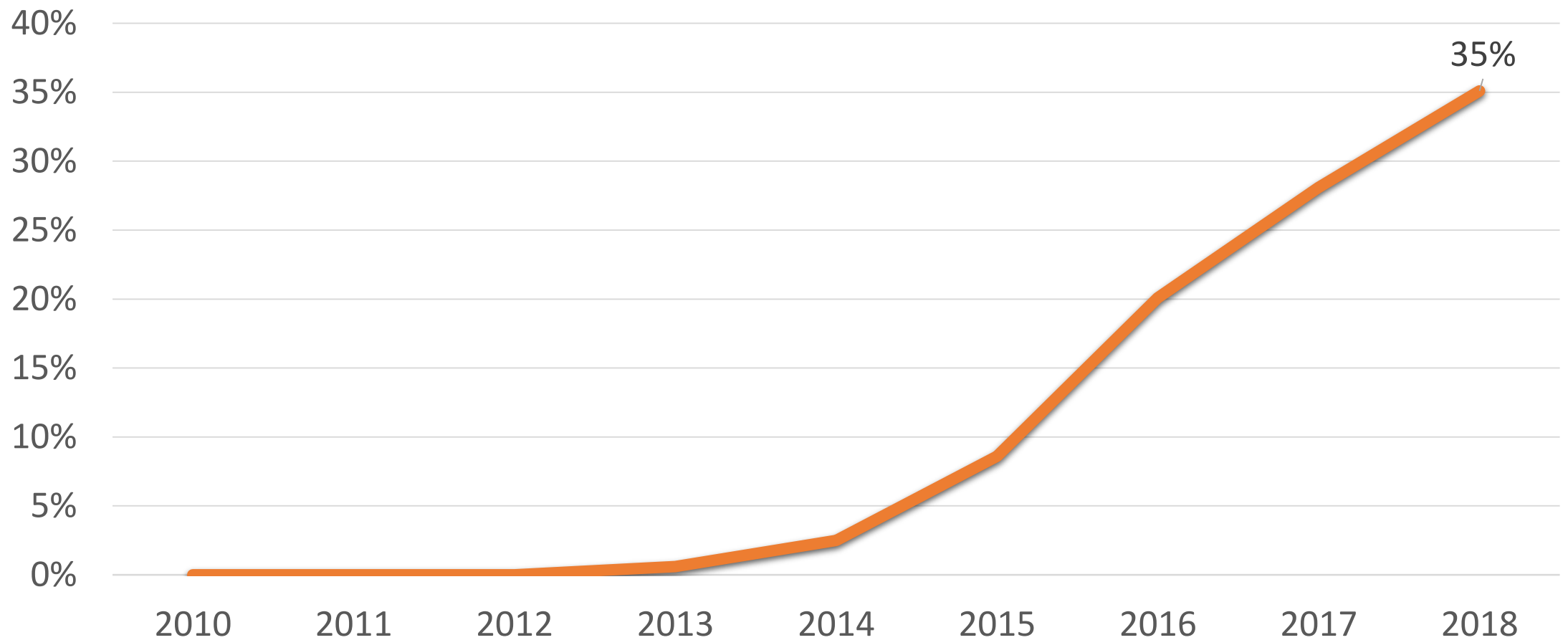
Days to Register a Death



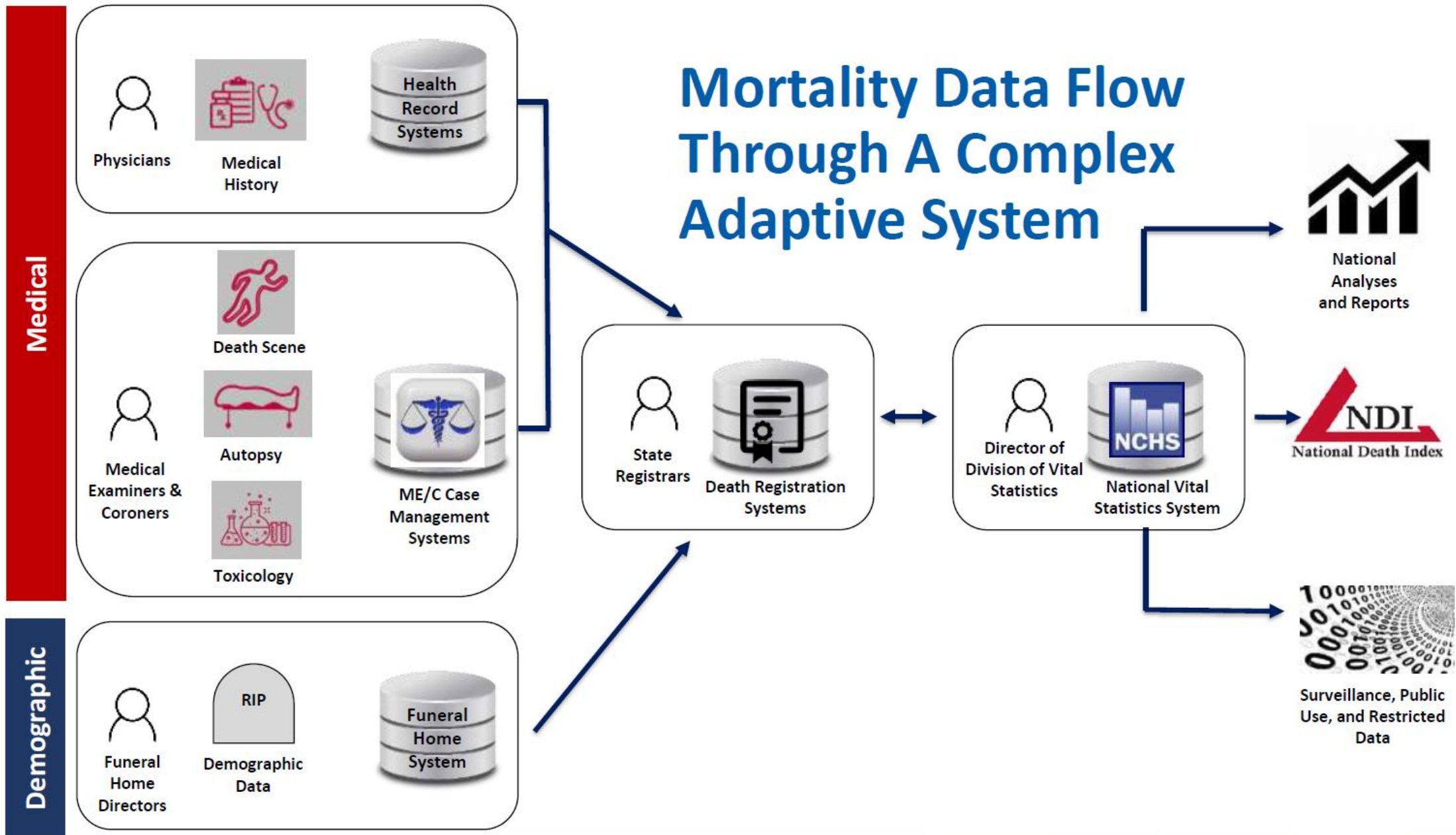
Deaths Registered Within 10 Days



Deaths Registered Electronically



Death Record Creation



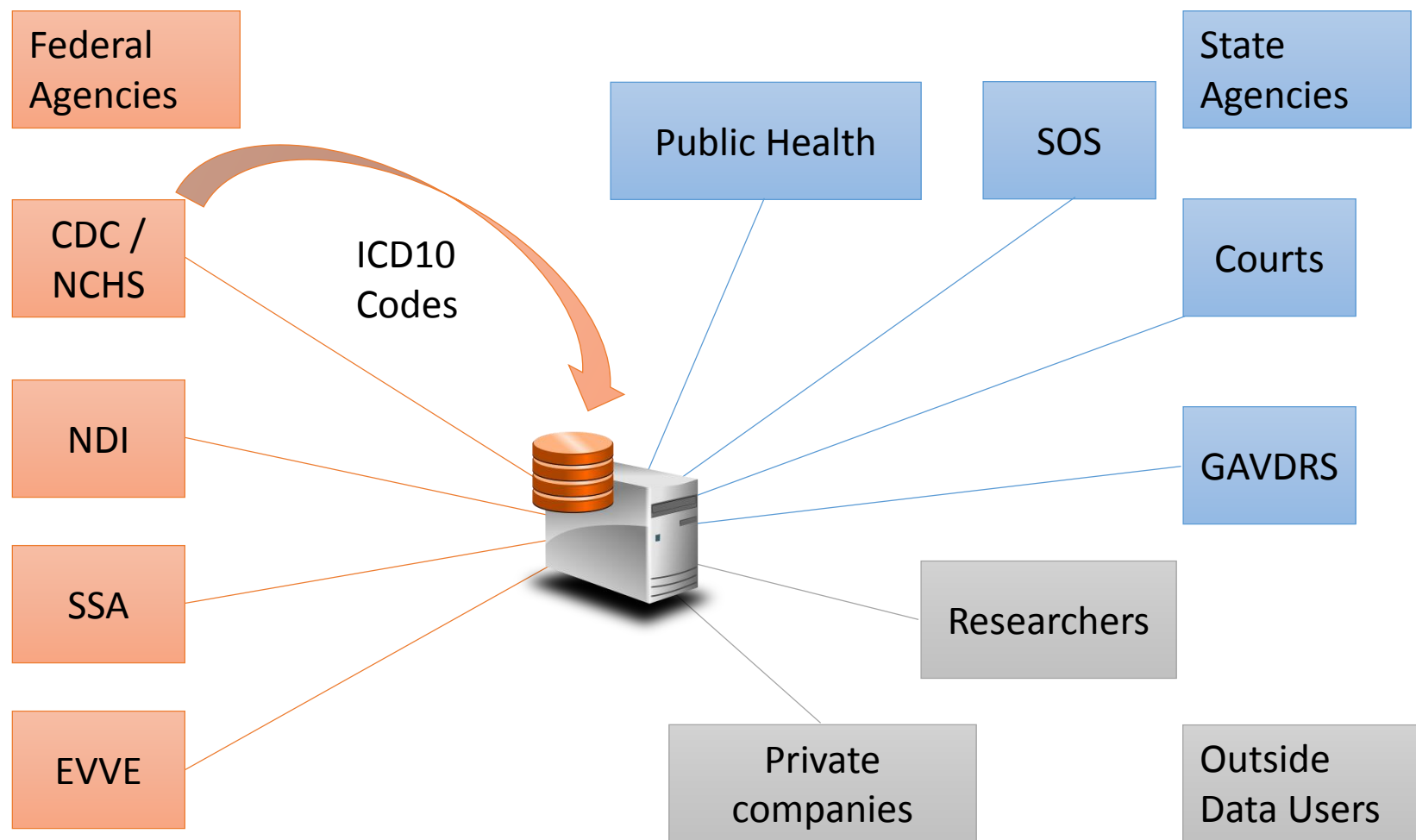
Source: CDC, Implementer's Community Meeting

Medical Examiner inquiry required O.C.G.A. § 45-16-24

(a) When any individual dies in any county in this state:

- (1) As a result of violence;
- (2) By suicide or casualty;
- (3) Suddenly when in apparent good health;
- (4) In any suspicious or unusual manner, with particular attention to those individuals 16 years of age and under;
- (5) After birth but before seven years of age if the death is unexpected or unexplained;
- (6) As a result of an execution carried out pursuant to the imposition of the death penalty under Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 17;
- (7) When an inmate of a state hospital or a state, county, or city penal institution;
- (8) After having been admitted to a hospital in an unconscious state and without regaining consciousness within 24 hours of admission;
- (9) As a result of an apparent drug overdose; or
- (10) When unattended by a physician (*required to notify but may decline the case)

Death Record Creation



Death Record Creation

- All ICD10 codes are assigned by NCHS
- 70%-80% auto-coded (hours)
- 20%-30% manual review (days or weeks)
- Codes manually imported to GAVERS

Out-of-State Deaths


- Georgia resident dies in the U.S. shared in IJE format (full death record)
- IJE records provided
- Uploaded to GAVERS
- Georgia resident dies in another country notification only

New Initiatives

GAVERS Alerts

Specific instructions for death reporting:

9/10/2017 5:35:31 PM



Message:

Please note that the Georgia State Office of Vital Records will be closed on Monday 9/11 and Tuesday 9/12 due to Hurricane Irma.

If you are notified of a death related to Hurricane Irma please report it immediately by calling 1-866-PUB-HLTH (866-782-4584).

When registering a death certificate related to Hurricane Irma make sure to include "Hurricane Irma" in the "Describe How Injury Occurred" field on the Death-Medical 3 tab.

Opioid Surveillance Fields

Two new questions added to GAVERS July 1, 2018:

1. Do you have reason to suspect that this death is due to an unintentional drug overdose? [Yes, No, Unknown]

If Yes, then:

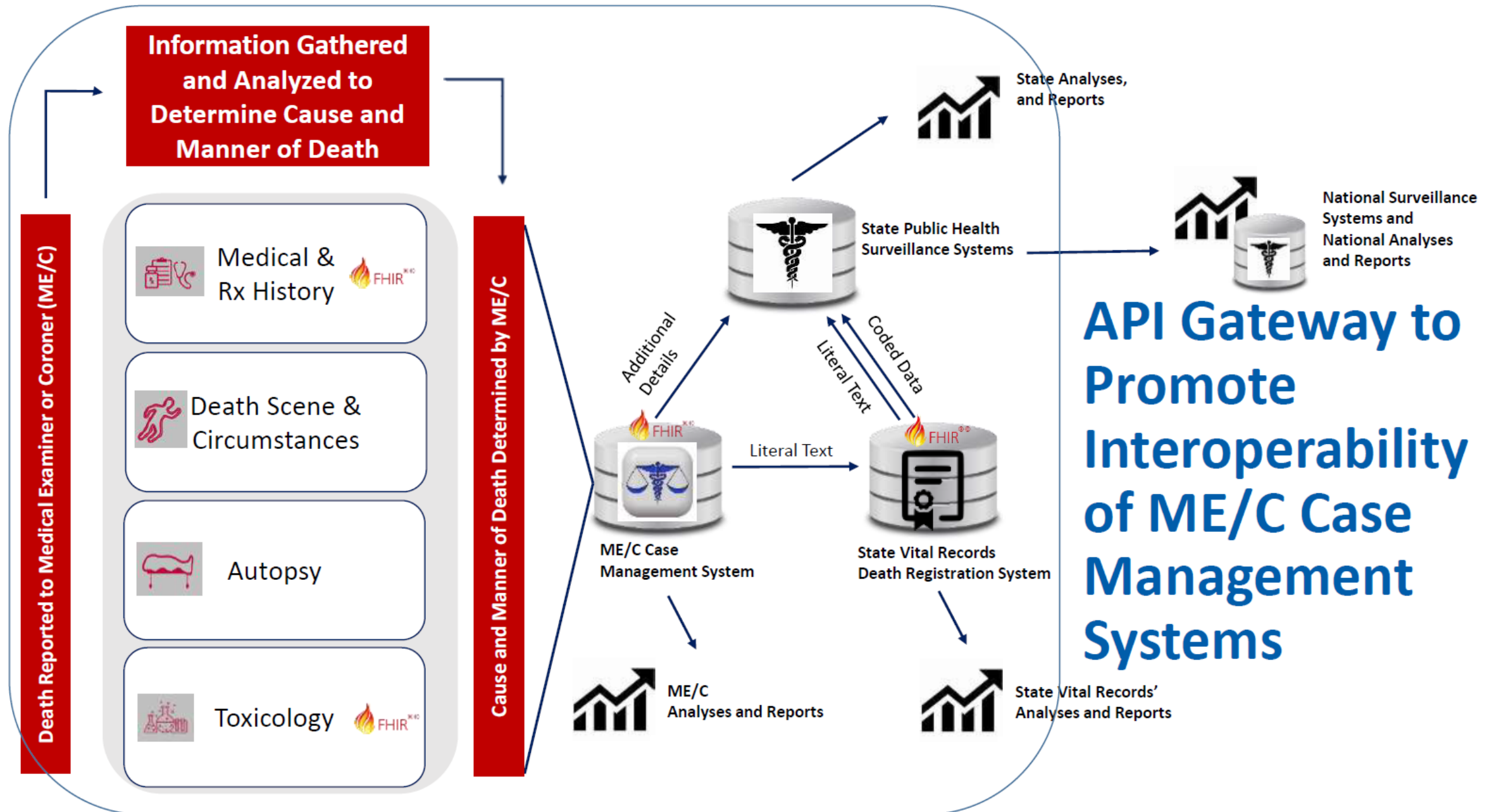
2. Briefly describe the circumstance.

Available for DPH data users prior to record completion

- Do not print on certificate
- Currently under evaluation

Death Interoperability using HL7 FHIR

- Health Level 7 (HL7) is an international standard, used by electronic health records
- Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) is a modern, internet-based approach to HL7
- Six states funded by CDC to develop death interoperability
 - California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York
- The “Implementer’s Community”



Source: CDC, Implementer's Community Meeting

Ways to find more information

 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

[A-Z Index](#)

Search 

Public Health Surveillance and Data

CDC > Surveillance and Data > Projects

-  Surveillance and Data
- Strategies for Improvement +
- Projects** -
 - Improving Surveillance and Data
 - Connecting Real Time Data

Project — Modernizing Death Reporting



<https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/projects/Modernizing-Death-Reporting.html>

Questions?

